

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 IO-11 DLOS-04 OFA-01 ACDA-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAL-01 OES-03 /086 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8759

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

CNO

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01870

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, MARR, IC, UK, US, NATO

SUBJECT: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE: BRITISH

TRAWLER'S WARPS CUT BY ICELANDIC GUN BOATS

REF: LONDON 1805

1. UK FISHERIES OFFICIALS INFORMED EMBASSY AT 1630
GMT, FEBRUARY 5, THAT THEY HAD JUST LEARNED THAT UNIDEN-
TIFIED ICELANDIC GUN BOAT HAS CUT WARPS OF LOCH
ERIDOL OFF NORTHEAST COAST OF
ICELAND. ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO CUT WARPS ON TWO OTHER
TRAWLERS AS WELL. FISHERIES OFFICIAL STATED INCIDENT
OCCURRED IN ONE OF THE CONSERVATION AREAS REPORTEDLY
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ANNOUNCED BY ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT ON FEBRUARY 2.

ALTHOUGH ONE MO TWO TRAWLERS HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THESE AREAS THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF HMG BY ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT. SOURCE ADDED THAT AREAS HAD BEEN MENTIONED EARLIER IN SCIENTIFIC TALKS WITH ICELANDERS BUT EMPHASIZED THAT NO AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THEM NOR ANY OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THEM RECEIVED. ALTHOUGH FULL REPORT NOT YET RECEIVED FROM LOCH ERIDOL IT WAS FISHERIES OFFICIAL'S UNDERSTANDING FROM OTHER TRAWLERS IN AREA THAT GUN BOATS SIMPLY ORDERED TRAWLERS TO HAUL NETS WITHOUT MAKING ANY REFERENCE TO THEIR FISHING IN A CONSERVATION AREA.

2. FCO OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED INCIDENT. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT "BUTTON HAS NOT BEEN PUSHED" ON ORDERING OD FRIGATES TO ENTER ICELANDIC WATERS. HE ADDED THAT WE COULD DRAW OUR OWN CONCLUSION AS TO LIKELIHOOD OF THIS HAPPENING. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN DID STATE, HOWEVER, TO HOUSE OF COMMONS ON FEBRUARY 4, THAT REINTRODUCTION OF THE FRIGATES WOULD BE AUTOMATIC IN CASE OF SUCH AN INCIDENT.

3. FISHERIES SOURCE SAID THAT CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT WAS A CALCULATED RISK WHICH HMG HOPED WOULD RESTRAIN ICELANDERS.

SOURCE EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET OVER FURTHER DETERIORATION OF SITUATION AND EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL HOPE THAT THERE MAY BE SCOPE FOR US PARTICIPATION IN MEDIATION ATTEMPT. ON SAYING THIS HE ADDED HASTILY THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF BUT THAT HE WAS SURE SENIOR (BUT UNSPECIFIED) /HMG OFFICIALS FEEL THE SAME WAY.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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